

*Continued next page*

After the *sturm und drang* of the past two council meetings, only three citizens (other than myself) showed up for the March 12 meeting. These three were there for further discussion of the tree on Clermont Avenue slated for removal as part of the replacement of the sidewalk. Two spoke against tree removal and one in favor. The one in favor of removal simply expressed the hope that the controversy over the tree was not obstructing the time line for getting the much-needed sidewalk construction started (Mayor Benjamin responded that it was not).

One of the presentations against removal provided a one-page description of KBI Flexi®-Pave, a porous paving material that might be suitable for the stretch of sidewalk around the tree. This presenter arranged for an engineer who works with this material to come to Garrett Park to talk with interested people (scheduled before this *Bugle* is distributed); Council member Jane McClintock said she would attend. Later in the discussion, the Mayor noted that the State Department of Natural Resources had reaffirmed its initial finding (reported in last month's *Bugle*) that the tree is dangerous and should come down regardless of sidewalk plans, a reaffirmation that the Council took seriously for reasons of legal and moral responsibility.

The other resident who spoke in opposition to the tree removal, spoke also in opposition to the sidewalk project, claiming that the historical nature of the Town would be destroyed. The substance of this presentation was a threat to go to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to block the project. According to a letter from the FHWA provided by the resident, FHWA has the authority to adjudicate disputes over projects (although, according to the letter, within a 30-day window, which appears to this reporter to have passed). The presentation was at times quite loud and angry to include some *ad hominem* attacks of the Council and Mayor. This resident was politely reminded by two Council members that while these meetings rightfully involve disagreement and debate, their discourse should remain respectful and civil.

On the question of historical preservation of the Town's character, the Mayor pointed out that the sidewalk approval process has proceeded as required, and that the Feds and State have now signed off on the historical preservation aspect. The approval letter from the FHWA and the concurrence of the Maryland Historical Trust are on the Garrett Park website (<http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/projects/sidewalks>). Hence, case closed. On the engineering details of the project, the Maryland State Highway Authority is moving forward with its approval process, with the

result due within a couple weeks, after which it will be possible to ask for bids.

The Mayor announced that the Town has received an additional \$350,000 for the sidewalk project, bringing the total budget to \$911,000. The increase had been requested due to higher costs resulting from the very long time it has taken this project to move along (and the firing of the initial engineers picked by the State). In addition, a necessary easement to enable storm drainage work on private property next to Porcupine Woods has been obtained.

Council member Phil Schulp brought up the GP Dog Park. Part of the fence is leaning (after the high winds we had at the beginning of March) and needs replacement. Following discussion, it appears that this repair might also include installation of a "double airlock" gate.

The (uncontroversial) action item of the night was approval of the budget for the 2019 fiscal year (beginning July 1 this year), which passed unanimously. As discussed in last month's report, this includes a cut in the property tax rate, and authorization for the Mayor to shift money in sub-categories of the budget (up to a limit) to handle payments for unexpected variations in expenditures. As for this year, Town Manager Gene Swearingen noted that revenues and expenditures to date are as expected, and that the process of finding his replacement is getting underway.

Despite the continued discussion of the sidewalk issue, the meeting adjourned by 8:15pm.

Ed Lincoln, *Bugle* Reporter

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## **ATTENTION GARRETT PARK RESIDENTS**

### **ALL TOWN EMAIL NOTICES ARE NOW SENT VIA THE GP WEBSITE.**

If you've been receiving email notices from the Town Office, you may have realized that you're not getting them anymore! All Town notices are now sent through the Town website.

### **CHOOSE YOUR TYPE OF NOTIFICATIONS IN THE "RESIDENTS PORTAL"**

If you wish to continue to receive notices from the Town Office, go to the Town's homepage, [www.garrettparkmd.gov](http://www.garrettparkmd.gov), click on the heading **Residents Portal**. This will take you to another webpage to "Register for the Portal."

The Town Office then receives a message that you've registered and approves your request. Once your registration has been approved, you can sign in and **choose the notifications you want to receive!**

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Meet and Greet

Penn Place - P.O. Patio  
9am – 12noon  
-A Saturday in May-  
\*Date to be decided

GP VOLUNTEER DRIVERS' LIST

| Volunteer Drivers      | Street     | Area Code 301 |
|------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Barbara Abraham        | Montrose   | 949-1056      |
| Glenda/Ken Ingham      | Rokeby     | 933-5689      |
| Kathy Chamberlin       | Montrose   | 942-3822      |
| Charlie Snyder         | Montrose   | 942-2442      |
| Beth Irons             | Clermont   | 942-0994      |
| Elin Quigley           | Keswick    | 942-4567      |
| Kay Hager              | Cambria    | 949-8882      |
| Veronica/Terry Sauvain | Clermont   | 942-5963      |
| Ann Gordon             | Cambria    | 933-0598      |
| Louise Stomierowski    | Kenilworth | 946-2075      |
| Mary Morse             | Raleigh    | 240-418-9243  |
| Stan McLeod            | Kenilworth | 949-3205      |
| Michael Casassa*       | Kenilworth | 946-5396      |

\*Michael also can help with some routine repairs

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Did You Know?

This is a story about a theft, a lawsuit, and a curmudgeon...



Haile Chisolm is our curmudgeon. He was born in Garrett Park in 1902 and spent all but his last year or two living here, primarily at 11010 Kenilworth Ave.

Haile was always recognizable in his overalls and heavy denim jacket. He took great joy in his deception looking like he just fell off the hay wagon or the freight train. Haile also seemed to take great joy in challenging authority and was constantly at odds with the Town, the Post Office and just about the entire citizenry of Garrett Park.

The theft occurred in 1976 after the Town closed the railroad crossing to car traffic. Haile owned the land across the tracks and used the crossing for easier access to his coal/oil business.

When the sign went up stating:

STREET CLOSED

END OF WAVERLY AVENUE

Haile was livid.

That sign disappeared, and at the Town Council meeting, Haile accused the Town officials of trying to drive him out of business. Haile, frustrated as he was, decided to sue the Mayor and the Council members. Not only did he sue, he sued each one for a million dollars. And that sign that the Town posted? It can still be found in a corner of the basement at 11010 Kenilworth Ave!

-Researched by Jane Salomon,  
Archives Committee

### Services for Seniors

- Bathing
- Lifting
- Personal Care & Hygiene

- Dressing
- Transferring

- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminder
- Physical Therapy
- Light Housekeeping
- Transportation to Appointments

- 2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum
- All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants
- The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs
- All caregivers are fluent in English
- Personal choice in selection of every caregiver
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www.eldercaring2.com

VA • Call 703-956-3564  
www.eldercaringofnova.com

Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Summer Jobs List

If you would like to be listed on the summer Jobs List in the next Bugle, please call or email Elizabeth in the Town Office: 301-933-7488 or [adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov](mailto:adminelizabeth@garrettparkmd.gov). Be sure to give your name, age, contact information and category (pet sitting, babysitting, yard work, mowing, etc).

Deadline: April 10<sup>th</sup>

The **Garrett Bugle** is a newsletter publication by the Citizens Association of Garrett Park and published 10 times a year. Publication is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Articles, ads and other content for the *Garrett Bugle* can be emailed to [GPBugle@googlegroups.com](mailto:GPBugle@googlegroups.com).\*

Citizens Association Officers

Darshini Trivedi, President ~ Michael Lutkenhouse and Paul Doria-Rose, co-Vice-Presidents ~ Jill Joseph and Henri Keller, co-Treasurers ~ Sean Conlan, Secretary

**Garrett Bugle Staff** ([GPBugle@googlegroups.com](mailto:GPBugle@googlegroups.com))

**Editor:** Kacky Chantry (Box 470, [EditorGPBugle@gmail.com](mailto:EditorGPBugle@gmail.com))

**Reporters, Writers, Copy Editors:** Pat Aufderheide (Box 346), Carol Davies (Box 351), Cathy Gebhard (Box 41), Ed Lincoln (Box 348), Brian Mizoguchi (Box 256)

**Ads and Distribution:** Peggy Pratt (Box 158)

**Calendar and Subscriptions:** Joanne Schmader (Box 415) ~ First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (no bulk mail).

\*Editor and staff reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned Letters to the Editor will not be printed.

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♪ Starting March 31 at The Park View Gallery in Glen Echo Park, Garrett Park resident and artist Robert LeMar will have a solo show of his oil paintings titled “I Draw the Line.” In this work Robert explores the use of line as a way of accentuating form. Although totally oil on canvas, every painting in this show starts with a line drawn on canvas. Robert seeks to champion that line.



### Town Manager Notes

Town Elections are coming up! Three important dates to remember:

**Wednesday, March 28, Candidates Nomination Meeting**, 7:30pm at the Town Hall

**Wednesday, April 25, Candidates Forum**, 7:30pm at the Town Hall.

**Monday, May 7, GP Election Day.**  
Polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:30pm in the Post Office lobby at Penn Place, 4600 Waverly Avenue.



**Town Website.** It’s a good idea to frequently check the Town website for up to date notices and information about our government, committees, and services. We also suggest you look at the online Town calendar and encourage you to sign up for the Resident’s Portal: <http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/residents-portal>. The portal provides email information about town activities and events tailored to your interests, allows you to make online reservations for use of the Town Hall and gives you access to the Town Directory.

Items of particular interest now on the website:

The Town is looking for a part-time Archivist to manage the Garrett Park Archives located in the basement of Penn Place behind the Post Office.

The Town has posted a request for proposals from firms who will assist the Town in its search for a new Town Manager.

We always welcome your feedback on the site!

**State tax form reminder.** Remember to write “Garrett Park” in the box labeled “City, Town or Taxing Area” when filling out your state income tax forms. If someone prepares your tax returns for you, be sure to remind them to put “Garrett Park” in that box. This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. This revenue supports many of the services the town provides to residents.

**Reminder regarding permits.** If you are planning to do any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit is

required whenever a new structure is to be built, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. To save time, it’s a good idea to complete your Garrett Park permit and submission of plats and drawings before requesting a county permit.

Permit applications can be completed online at the Town website at <http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits>. Credit cards are accepted.

**Street cleaning.** The Town streets will be cleaned in April. We will post the schedule on the homepage of the Town website with e-notifications sent to residents who have requested them. We ask that you move your cars off the streets so that the cleaning can extend from curb to curb.

**Reminders regarding yard waste collection.** Yard waste is now collected every Monday through the end of October. Use paper bags for yard waste; no plastic, please! Don’t forget to bundle brush. If you have branches too large to bundle for yard waste collection, bring them to the curb, butt-end facing the street; the maintenance staff will come by and chip them. Also remember that bamboo cannot be chipped—it jams the chipper and sends out dangerous shards. Please cut it up into 4-foot lengths and either bundle or bag it for regular yard waste collection on Mondays.

If you have any questions about town services, please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

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### Happening Now at Penn Place Gallery!

The very popular Penn Place Gallery “**Invitational**” is an annual, juried group exhibit of artists who live in Montgomery County but not Garrett Park. This year’s exhibit shows the work of 25 talented artists from **March 25-April 21** and will be celebrated with an *opening reception and award ceremony, catered by Black Market Bistro, on March 25th from 3-5pm*. Everyone is welcome!

# Citizens Association Notes

The Citizens Association decided to return nominations of town council and mayor to the town office. People have wondered about this, so we wanted to take a minute to explain why the CA has made this decision. While it's true that the CA has hosted the nominations for a number of years, it was unclear to CA leadership why this group was involved in a town process. The CA does not set the rules, policies or deadlines for the nomination process. We do not record, in any official capacity, the results of the nominations. In fact, all we really do is open the Town Hall and make a few introductions. We do not believe that lending the CA name to this meeting improved transparency or accountability. For these reasons, we asked that the Town take over this meeting, although representatives from the CA plan to attend. The CA will continue to run the Candidates Forum where candidates for town office are given an opportunity to answer questions from the community (see our *Save the Date* below).

**Save the date.** Candidates Forum (Wed, Apr 25). This is an opportunity to participate in an open Q&A forum with candidates for town government. Up for town election are two Council seats (currently held by Hans Wegner and Jane McClintock) as well as the position of Mayor (currently held by Peter Benjamin). See <http://www.garrettparkmd.gov/> for more information.

**Annual Dues.** The Citizens Association 2018 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

**Garrett Park Listserv.** Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at <https://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join>.

Questions, comments or meeting suggestions for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi ([darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com](mailto:darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com)) or Sean Conlan ([sconlan@gmail.com](mailto:sconlan@gmail.com)).

## Green Banner Contribution



### Help Us Stay Green!

If you would like to support the Green Banner in future months, please make out a check to the Citizens Association (CA) for \$45 with "Green Banner" in the subject line; and mail it to the CA at Box 456. If you would like to dedicate your sponsorship to someone or something, please also include a note to that effect.

Thank you.

## Please join the Garrett Park Parents Group and the Citizens Association for the 3rd Annual Egg Hunt.



**Date/Time.** Saturday,  
April 7 at 11:30am

**Location.** Grassy area by the basketball and tennis courts

**Ages:** 8 and under

**Guidelines.** Children bring their own egg baskets/containers.

**Logistics.** A small group will begin to hide the eggs at 10:45 am. We'll have a staggered start by age, with the 0-2 year olds starting the hunt first. We will plan to start on time (unless all of the eggs aren't yet hidden) so please plan accordingly. Rain date will be Saturday, April 14th at the same time and location.

**Helping Out.** We could use your help by:

- 1) Hiding eggs the day of the hunt (the more people we have the easier it will be).
- 2) Donating plastic eggs, candy or small items, like stickers that we can use to fill the eggs.
- 3) Filling the eggs with collected goodies.

Questions or to volunteer, please email Lesley Maloney ([lesleyrmaloney@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyrmaloney@gmail.com)).

## Yoga for All Levels

Tuesdays, 6:15–7:30 pm, 8–9 pm  
Garrett Park Town Hall

Classes include stretching, alignment, restorative and breathing work, meditation, and relaxation.

*"Tuesday night's class showed me how out of shape my core is! Thank you for bringing your experience and knowledge into the practice... not only is my mind refreshed, but my body says thank you for the stretching and awareness"*

Questions? Email Liz at [gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com](mailto:gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com)  
Visit [lilylotusyoga.com](http://lilylotusyoga.com)

# Creative Contributions

## By Town Residents

### This Old House→Where We Live

[Editor's note: This series is being done in collaboration with members of the Archives and Historic Preservation Committees. For now, the monthly series will feature a house from within the Historic District with research from the Archives and interviews with current and/or past owners. The goal is to trace the history of these houses and highlight some of the interesting events that happened in the homes or to the people who have lived in them. Later, the series will showcase houses beyond the Historic District. Afterall, the Town is known for not only its unique history and park-like setting but also its eclectic mix of homes and the eccentrics who lived in them! That's what Garrett Park is all about! 😊]



#### Real Estate News (Evening Star, May 27 1905)

#### "Ideal Country Home For Sale at A Special Figure"

A three story, eight room house on a half acre lot with a stable for two horses and space for two carriages. The house has hot and cold water and a new Peninsular Range. Note that the house has been newly painted and papered throughout. In the ad the windmill is visible, and the 80 ft deep well is described as providing "absolutely pure, clear water."

If you want to see this house today, walk along Waverly Avenue to 4711. The carriage house is still there but the windmill is gone. If you go to the Walking Tour on the Town website you can see other historic homes in Garrett Park as featured in a 2015 project of the Historic Preservation Committee.

-Contributed by Marian Green,  
Historic Preservation Committee

~\*~\*~\*

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# What We're Cooking...

## By Nikki Forry

Fast, easy, Paleo-friendly...enough said!

### Lebanese Lemon Chicken

#### Ingredients & Materials

- 3 lemons
- 2 Tbsp olive oil, plus more for cooking
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- 1 ½ tsp sea salt
- Fresh ground pepper
- 3 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs (about 12 thighs)
- 2 large shallots (or 1 large onion)
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme

#### Directions

Juice lemons until you have 2 Tbsp lemon juice. Add 2 Tbsp olive oil, turmeric, sea salt, and a generous amount of ground black pepper to lemon juice.

Add chicken thighs and toss to coat. Marinate while preparing other ingredients.

Trim ends of other two lemons and slice into ¼ inch rounds, remove visible seeds. Halve, peel, and slice shallots.

Heat two large cast iron skillets over medium-high heat (or cook in batches). Coat bottom of pan with a thin layer of oil.

Cook chicken smooth-side down. Cook for 5 mins, until nicely browned on bottom. Flip and cook 8-10 mins on the other side, until just cooked through (lowering heat if needed). Transfer chicken to a plate.

Add lemons, shallots and herb sprigs to the pans. Let cook undisturbed for 3-4 mins, until lemons are browned on the bottom. Pour ½ c water in each pan and stir, scraping browned bits from bottom. Reduce heat to medium, add chicken back to pans and cook 4-5 mins so the flavors can meld.

Serve chicken, shallots and pan juices over rice/cauliflower rice.

Ref: <http://acalculatedwhisk.com/lebanese-lemon-chicken>

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## Awards and Golden Globes

**By Michael Grieb**

A wag (ref. mid-16th century) once said that the job of acritic is equivalent to someone who goes onto a battlefield after the fight is over and shoots the wounded. Nonetheless, this couch potato wants to recommend two films as a coda that, I believe, were largely overlooked in one case and completely ignored in the other by the two major awards venues, the Academy Awards and the Golden Globes, this year.

The first was *Loving Vincent*, a wonderful effort that, in fairness, was nominated in the Best Animated Feature Film category by both organizations, but also was unfairly beaten out by "Coco" in both ceremonies. *Loving Vincent* is far more than a simple animation story. It tells its plot in oil-painted animation of the death of the legendary impressionist, Vincent van Gogh, and turns into a detective investigation of whether the artist's death was a murder or suicide. Originally filmed with actors, it was then painted over by more than 100 artists from all over the world to create the animation effect. The clincher is the actors' appearances cleverly match Van Gogh's actual paintings of the residents of his village, Auvers-sur-Oise, many of whom served as the models and inspiration for his art. Moreover, the film's backdrops often consist of many of Van Gogh's masterpieces. The effect is as magical as Van Gogh's works themselves.

The other is *Wind River*, a murder-mystery-intrigue whodunit set in snowy present-day Wyoming at the Wind River Indian Reservation, although it was actually filmed largely in Park City, Utah. With an outstanding cast, it tracks a green FBI agent (Elizabeth Olson) who teams up with a local game tracker (Jeremy Renner) with a troubled past to find the killer of a young indian woman who died mysteriously. A multilayered film, it addresses murder, rape and missing persons as well as contemporary American issues. It received ecstatic reviews from the critics and unfortunately opened to a viewing audience of dozens of people. (A *Washington Post* critic recently suggested that Renner should have received a Best Actor nomination for his performance.) I believe that had the film received the recognition it deserved, it would have been re-released at Oscar time. However, it was released by the Weinstein Company and anything associated with Harvey Weinstein in Hollywood these days is probably headed for “Video Valhalla!”

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## What We're Reading...

**By Brian Mizoguchi**

[Editor's note: Brian is back with his monthly series of book recommendations! Here is his 4<sup>th</sup> in the series...]

Thanks to our neighbor Marian Green for a couple of ideas:

**“Waverley”** by Sir Walter Scott (Penguin Classics). Reportedly, Garrett Park streets take their names from this first historical novel and international bestseller in England and Scotland during the Jacobite Rebellion. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/539025.Waverley>

“**Breath, Eyes, Memory**” by Edwidge Danticat (Soho Press). One of the books (and the only novel) being read in a Smithsonian course on the immigrant experience in literature. From a review posted to Good Reads: “Sophie grows up in Haiti with her aunt until age 12, when she is sent to New York City to live with her mother. It would be hard enough to live between two places, never having a true sense of home, but Sophie’s life is further shadowed by the painful knowledge of why her mother couldn’t raise her. Danticat explores how the legacy of violence and hurt are inherited by each new generation, and the herculean effort of will required to break those patterns.” [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5186.Breath\\_Eyes\\_Memory](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5186.Breath_Eyes_Memory)

And a couple from me:

“**Sirius**” by Jonathan Crown (Scribner). A first novel and feel-good tale that follows Levi, a smart fox terrier, who, after helping his family to escape danger in 1938 Berlin, emigrates with them to Hollywood. Discovered by Jack Warner, his life takes a number of turns and ultimately comes full circle where he “almost changed history.” (The subtitle says “almost” but, although this is a Forest Gump-like fantasy, a little research reveals a historical fact that permits some suspension of disbelief).

**“Hamlet”** by William Shakespeare. Stuff happens when you are a prince, return home from school for your father’s funeral, and find your uncle has taken over as King and married your mother! When a ghost goads Hamlet’s suspicions, the plot takes off. Is he mad or not? And all the lines you know but might not have read in their original context, including the famous and eternal question: “To be or not to be...”

If you have any books you'd like to recommend, please send in your thoughts for the next edition of "What We're Reading" to me at [gpbugle@googlegroups.com](mailto:gpbugle@googlegroups.com).

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## Town Elections Call for Nominations

This year the Town is electing a mayor and two council members. Nominations will be solicited at an open meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday, March 28, at 7:30pm. New this year, this meeting will be facilitated by the Judges of Elections instead of the Citizen's Association. Candidates who agree to run must have resided in the Town for the year preceding the election and be 18 years of age or older.

Can't make the meeting? Candidates can also be nominated by petition, signed by at least 10 Garrett Park registered voters and filed at least 21 days before the May 7 election. For 2018, the petition deadline is April 16. The Candidate Petition can be found on the Town website under the "Government" tab, "Elections and Voter Registration" section.

Suzanne Grefsheim, Chief Election Judge

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## Calling All Garrett Park Artists! Join us for our very first Garrett Park "Aspiring Artist" Show

Penn Place Gallery would like to encourage and invite all Garrett Park resident artists, in high school and older, to enter a group show at the Gallery from **July 22 - August 18, 2018**. If you love to create but don't feel you're quite ready for a solo show, here's a chance to exhibit your work! If you have questions, please contact: Suzi Gifford at [swgiff@comcast.net](mailto:swgiff@comcast.net) or Vickie Bailly at [vbailly@mac.com](mailto:vbailly@mac.com)

**Type of Work Accepted for Exhibition:** All work shown should be deemed to have artistic, as opposed to commercial value. This includes but is not limited to painting, drawing, photography, fiber arts, and mixed media. Exhibitors may include commercial artists, graphic artists, architects, etc., however the exhibit may not be used to advertise a business. The subject matter should be appropriate for a public space visited by children and adults of all ages. While it is not our intent to censor any artwork, Gallery co-chairs will determine if art is appropriate for display in this highly traveled public location.

If you are interested in submitting an entry, or know of an artist who might be, please submit photo of your selected piece, its title, media, size and price (if for sale), along with your name, address, email address, and phone number(s) to [vbailly@mac.com](mailto:vbailly@mac.com) **no later than July 1, 2018**. Once we receive a photo of your entry, we will send you more detailed information.

## Garrett Park Musicale Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 4pm, Town Hall --In Need of Music Makers--

Music of all types, from neighbors and friends, young and young-at-heart, playing jazz, pop, folk, classical, and more! So break out those instruments, tune up those strings, and moisten your vocal cords.

This annual FUN EVENT was started by the late Ilah Gieser in 1996 to raise funds to offer a one-year music scholarship for a 5th grade student at GPES. This year two friends will share the scholarship and perform their debut at the event!



The Music Fund is part of the Garrett Park Community Fund (a 501(c)3 org), so your generous donation is tax-deductible. Children are welcome!

For more information on how you can perform or provide assistance, please email or call Sue Petito [s.petito@yahoo.com](mailto:s.petito@yahoo.com), 301-942-1732 or Meme Lincoln [mslincoln12@gmail.com](mailto:mslincoln12@gmail.com), 240-447-2087.

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## Arboretum Committee Sponsors WEED WARRIOR DAY

**APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>**. Once again, the Town Arboretum Committee is proud to sponsor our annual Weed Warrior Day (in conjunction with Earth Day Weekend) in Porcupine Woods on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 10:00am.

Porcupine Woods is a marvelous resource but has been losing diversity due to increasing deer population and non-native invasive plants that choke out desirable wildflowers. In fall 2016, the Town planted several native trees at two locations in Porcupine Woods in an effort to stem the decline of diversity: Paw-paws, red buckeye, hollies, and redbuds. Those plantings could use our help getting established, so come out on **Saturday, April 21, 10am** to join other "Weed Warriors" giving the new trees a boost by weeding and removing competing plants. We'll also help wildlife by creating brush-pile habitat enhancement. **Refreshments will be available.**

Can't come at 10? We'll be there until at least noon. The areas are just inside the Penn Place end of Porcupine Woods and about 20 yards inside the Clermont Avenue end of the Woods. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and hard-soled footwear; bring gloves. If you bring any implements, make sure they are marked with your name and telephone number on the handle. Look forward to seeing you, rain or shine!

### Ref: March *Bugle*, Letters to the Editor

It is my firm intention to cover Town Council meetings in an impartial way, reporting rather than advocating for partisan views. That said, when a meeting (such as the one in February) lasts for 3.5 hours and involves statements by many of the 20+ people in attendance, the process of boiling all that content down to a digestible report for the *Bugle* may leave some speakers feeling that their position was not given enough coverage or sympathy. But anyone so offended should also reflect upon the possibility that what they thought was a strong, persuasive argument that should have been explained in detail or even endorsed by this reporter, may not come across to a neutral observer in the way they hoped. Anyone feeling aggrieved always has the option of a letter to the editor or to the Garrett Park Listserv, as some have done.

Ed Lincoln, *Bugle* Reporter

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### Ref: March *Bugle*, This Old Tree

In the past, our Mayor, Peter Benjamin, and I and others have collaborated to bring progress to Garrett Park, most especially with the redevelopment and renovation of Penn Place. Under our Mayor's leadership and my humble (but I must say effective) advice, and with the strong support of former Member of Congress, Connie Morella, the Penn Place renovation project was the recipient of Federal funding and became a reality that now houses the Garrett Park Post Office, the Black Market Bistro and other important activities including the Town offices. All of this was accomplished by the citizens of that era using their brains, initiative and hard work to hammer out compromises that resulted in a very impressive physical asset for the Town of Garrett Park.

Turning now to the Town's latest initiative, the installation of a series of sidewalks that has as its most important purpose, the protection of our Garrett Park children, as they walk to and from school, I am most supportive. Veronica Sauvain (our former Postmaster) and I have raised three children in Garrett Park. They attended Holy Cross Elementary School and benefitted from the safety of the sidewalks in place at that time. Veronica and I most certainly wish for today's children of Garrett Park to benefit from the safety that an improved sidewalk system would provide. The Mayor and the Town Council are to be commended for this initiative, which I believe enjoys widespread town support.



In 1972, some 46 years ago, when Veronica and I and the children moved out of our house on Strathmore Avenue into the house at 10916 Clermont Ave., we were greeted by a half-century-old, handsome tulip poplar situated at the foot of our driveway. This old friend has served as a silent sentinel, shielding our home from the harsh early-day sun and reminding us of the majesty of the work of the Creator and/or Mother Nature.

It seems to me that it would be wise for all of us to work together and use the same brain power, initiative, hard work, and sense of compromise employed to successfully renovate Penn Place, to install the new sidewalk, while at the same time preserving the 100-year-old, historic tulip poplar tree. All it takes is a greater spirit of cooperation and compromise among the varied interested parties to preserve this hundred-year-old tree and still complete construction without delay of the safety-conscious improvement to the Town's infrastructure, so dear to the hearts of parents and others.

Veronica and I, and several concerned neighbors have collected views and have requested that the Mayor and Town Council please properly reflect upon the following elements of consideration in their deliberations to find a workable solution that respects the views and interests of all concerned. These are the following:

1. The tree was deemed healthy by 5 of the 6 arborists invited by the Town to evaluate the tree; and referred to as "amazingly healthy" by the only arborist who used the highest level of technology to test the tree. Why has the negative report of the one arborist who utilized a lower level analysis and whose report is in stark disagreement with the consensus, overrule the 5 positive evaluations?
2. The tree withstood the 70 mph winds of the recent storm and showed no distress.

3. We have found an environmentally-friendly material called Flexi-Pave that could possibly be used around the tree to meet ADA sidewalk regulations while minimizing damage to the tree roots, and we have scheduled a representative from that company (praised by a landscape architect in the Town of Chevy Chase) to meet Garrett Park Town officials and neighbors on March 22nd to provide guidance.

4. We were promised by the Mayor that we had until the start of construction to find a solution to preserve the tree and comply with ADA sidewalk regulations, and now he has apparently rescinded his promise and made plans to have the tree removed as soon as possible. We believe we may have found that solution and ask that he keep his promise.

5. And very importantly, it appears there is a lot of misinformation in the community, and we want to make it clear that we are NOT protesting the sidewalks. In fact, we support the new sidewalk project and are only trying to find a way to save this 100-year-old, grand and healthy tree from being destroyed, simply because it is an inconvenience to the engineers. Veronica and I have offered financial support to save the tree, and even offered part of our property in order to widen the new sidewalk to incorporate the tree, while meeting ADA regulations. We in no way wish to delay or protest sidewalk construction, so please, support our effort by asking the Mayor and Town Council to save our tree.

Terrence and Veronica Sauvain

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Immersed in the Details



### Green Tip of the Month

Any toilet manufactured before 1992 uses at least 3.5 gallons per flush. Modern low-flow toilets use less than 1.28 gallons, saving 60% of the water. A new toilet may cost a few hundred bucks, but it will save you several thousand dollars in water consumption over its lifetime. (Note: adding a brick to the toilet tank will help save even more!) Ref: <https://greenglobaltravel.com/40-earth-day-tips-for-going-green/>

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## Coming Soon!

### The Progressive Dinner

May 5, 2018  
6pm to 10:30pm

Sponsored by the Garrett Park Women's Club  
Look for more details in the next *Bugle* issue

## Letter from the Mayor

Budgets never sound exciting, but the FY 2019 budget the Council approved at its last meeting includes a 5% reduction in your Town property tax rate. We did this to try to help cushion a possible tax increase many of us might experience due to the new federal tax law that would limit deductions for state and local taxes to \$10,000.

After six years of effort, it seems as though we are close to building the sidewalks. We have been awarded a grant amendment increasing the 100% federal funds (no local share) available for the project by \$350,000, making the total grant \$911,000. We have received our stormwater management and natural resources approvals, the findings that the project meets the federal historic preservation provisions have been made by both the federal and state agencies, we have our environmental clearances, and our 95% engineering plans are under review by the State Highway Administration. That review will include Americans with Disability Act compliance. After we incorporate any changes required by SHA we will have 100% plans and will ask SHA for approval to advertise for a construction contractor. At this point it appears possible that we will be constructing the project, including its stormwater management component, in the summer or early fall.

One element of the sidewalks project that has been the subject of much discussion recently is the decision early in the project to remove the stately and beautiful tulip poplar at 10914/10916 Clermont Ave. The tree is about 90 feet tall and over 100 years old, is leaning about 5° to the east, and is surrounded at its base by the street on one side, the existing sidewalk on another, and two driveways on the remaining sides, which experts say compromises the roots. A few months ago a group of neighbors near the tree expressed their concern about the removal plan. They requested a written opinion by an arborist as to the state of health of the tree, and the Town agreed to ask six arborists for their opinion. One of the organizations from which an opinion was requested was the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which is responsible for retaining street trees when safe and possible. DNR sent out a team of three arborists who did a detailed and thorough analysis. The analysis included an ISA Tree Risk Evaluation that rated the risk in 12 categories. The risk assessment in these categories ranged from “high” to

extreme,” and the corrective action for each category was “remove.” The recommendation in the memo was, “This tree is in danger of failing and should be removed immediately.” The other arborists cautioned that a sidewalk should not be built near the base of the tree, and most suggested that the minimum distance from the tree should be 15’. The sidewalk project engineer and his forester developed and evaluated alternative alignments and concluded that none was reasonable.

We are now in receipt of a recommendation by the state agency charged with preserving street trees that this tree should be removed. The DNR finding is not predicated upon damage caused by the sidewalk construction. It is for the tree as it is. The Town government has the responsibility to protect life, limb, and property of its residents. I doubt if any of the other arborists involved would, faced with the DNR analysis, suggest that we retain the tree. I did offer at the last Town Council meeting to ask those arborists whether they would disagree with the DNR opinion, and one of the leaders of the group opposing the removal, who was present, declined the offer. Putting the protection of the people in this town and their property, as well as visitors who might be in the vicinity of the tree, as the top priority of the Town government, I cannot see an alternative to removing the tree, whether or not a sidewalk is built there.

These controversies are difficult to deal with, and in our Town there is no lack of controversy. As leaders of the Town we must do our best to solicit input, hear what our citizens have to say, and make a fair decision which we know will not please everyone. I was hoping to have a respite from the controversy and making those decisions by retiring as mayor at the end of this term. However, after six years of working on the sidewalk project, I just cannot leave it without at least having a contractor ready to break ground. I was hoping that would be the case before the election, but it clearly will not be. We will also be recruiting a new town manager, and I believe that having an experienced mayor there as the new manager learns about the Town, our values and character, and our foibles will make an enormous difference. I plan therefore to stand before you as a candidate for election one last time.

Peter Benjamin



Color Me  
Easter!  
Or Color Me  
Spring!

